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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00

OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 STR-04 XMB-02 OES-06 /116 W
---------- 066583
R 051329Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3370
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3330

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EEWT, EFIN, OECD, DA
SUBJECT: OECD EAST/WEST INITIATIVE: US PROPOSALS FOR WORK PROGRAM

REF STATE 244132

SUMMARY: DANISH REACTION TO US INITIATIVE ON EAST-WEST
REACTIONS WAS COOL. DANISH GOVERNMENT UNLIKELY TO GIVE
OFFICIAL COMMENT BEFORE OCTOBER 14-15 XCSS MEETING.
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END SUMMARY.

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1. WHEN WE MADE DEMARCHE (OCTOBER 4) REQUESTED REFTEL, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS EXPRESSED MILD SURPRISE THAT US INTENDED TO PUSH EAST-WEST PROPOSAL VIGOROUSLY AT OCTOBER SESSION OF XCSS. THEY HAD, THEY SAID, EXPECTED THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WOULD MOVE MORE CAUTIOUSLY. IN FACT, THEY HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE A MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT THIS TIME.

2. THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT DENMARK WAS NOT LIKELY TO COMMENT OFFICIALLY ON EITHER THE SUBSTANTIVE OR PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS DELINEATED IN REFTEL BEFORE THE OCTOBER 14-15 MEETING. THEY STATED THAT THE PROPOSED TOPICS WERE OF THE KIND REQUIRING COORDINATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EC AND THAT SUCH CONSULTATION WOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY SHORTLY BEFORE THE XCSS MEETING.

3. DURING THE DISCUSSION, ONE OF THE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE US COULD HOPE FOR MUCH PROGRESS IN PARIS. HIS REASON WAS THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF "NEUTRALS" AMONG OECD STATES, NOTABLY SWEDEN, FINLAND, AND AUSTRIA, THAT ARE VERY CAUTIOUS ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE. WHEN ASKED IF DENMARK'S VIEWS TENDED IN THAT DIRECTION, HE RESPONDED THAT DENMARK WAS LESS CAUTIOUS BUT COULD STILL SEE HOW THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT VIEW THE OECD APPROACH AS "GANGING UP." WHILE ALL THE SUBJECTS LISTED IN REFTEL MERITED STUDY, THE COMPREHENSIVE, METHODICAL APPROACH BEING PROPOSED BY THE US COULD GIVE THE RUSSIANS PAUSE. HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT A MORE MODEST APPROACH OF LOOKING AT ONE OR TWO SUBJECTS MIGHT BE BETTER.

4. REGARDING PROCEDURE SUGGESTED BY US, ONE OF THE DANISH OFFICIALS WONDERED WHETHER A SINGLE OECD EXPERT COMMITTEE COULD BE EXPECTED TO HANDLE THE VARIETY OF TOPICS CONTAINED IN THE US PROPOSAL. HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, IF A DECISION IS TAKEN TO PROCEED, TO FARM SOME OF THEM OUT TO EXISTING OCED BOIDES, E.G., ENERGY TO IEA.

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5. COMMENT: A. IT WAS CLEAR FROM OUR DEMARCHE THAT THE DANES ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE US INITIATIVE AND ARE UNLIKELY EITHER TO COMMENT BEFORE THE OCOTBER 14-15 SESSION OR TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ENCOURAGING OTHER EC MEMBERS TO SUPPORT IT. ON THEOTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE THE DANES WILL GO ALONG IF THERE IS MAJORITY SUPPORT.

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B. THE DANISH OFFICIALS MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT
IT WAS VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE THIS EXPRESSION OF US
VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF THE XCSS MEETING. THEY OBSERVED
THAT THE US FREQUENTLY WAITS TO RAISE IMPORTANT
ISSUES AT THE MEETINGS THEMSLEVES, MAKING IT DIFFICULT
FOR DENMARK TO REACT IN TIMELY FASHION.
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Draft Date: 05 OCT 1976
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